



Formula BMW Americas expands 2008 Championship to 17 rounds with the addition of three races

Date June 20, 2008

Formula BMW Americas announced today that it has expanded the 2008 championship to 17 races with the scheduling of three additional races. An additional race will be held at Lime Rock Park during the rounds held at the Northeast Grand Prix, July 11-12. A third round will also be conducted at Road America during the Generac 500, August 7-10. The schedule at New Jersey Motorsport Park will also include a third race as part of the on-track activities at the Thunderbolt 150, September 27 – 28. With the addition of these three races, the series is now on par with the Formula BMW Europe and Pacific series in the number of rounds held this season. This will provide Formula BMW Americas drivers with similar preparation for the Formula BMW World Final as other Formula BMW participants around the world.

True to the goal of Formula BMW of maximizing on-track experience in the most cost-effective way, the addition of these races to existing events, as done in the Formula BMW Pacific series, will provide competitors in the Formula BMW Americas series with more wheel-to-wheel racing experience this season without having to travel to additional race venues.

With the addition of these races, the full 2008 Formula BMW Americas schedule is now as follows:

18th May	Festival of Speed	Laguna Seca	1 & 2
8th June	GP Canada	Montreal	3 & 4
22nd June	EMCO Gears Classic	Mid-Ohio	5 & 6
12th July	Northeast Grand Prix	Lime Rock Park	7, 8 & 9
10th August	Generac 500	Road America	10, 11 & 12
28th September	ARCA	Thunderbolt Raceway	13, 14 & 15
2nd November	GP Brazil	Interlagos	16 & 17

Licensing courses for the 2009 season are scheduled for July 28-29 and August 4-5. They will be held at the Formula BMW Racing Center at the Circuit de la Comunitat Valenciana Ricardo Tormo, in Valencia, Spain. Applications are now available at www.formulabmwusa.com.

Background:

Formula BMW is the world's leading entry-level series in formula racing. In 2008 the three Formula BMW series – Formula BMW Europe, Formula BMW Pacific and Formula BMW Americas – will be held in the key motor sport markets of Europe, pan-Asia and North and South America. The end of the year will see the Formula BMW World Final staged for the fourth time. The winner will be granted the opportunity of a test drive with the BMW Sauber F1 Team. Formula BMW will be held on the undercard of Formula One on 12 occasions. The series gives

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young racing talents the chance to enter professional motor sport in a safe racing car – the Formula BMW FB02.

The FB02 has been in use since season 2002. It is powered by a 140 hp BMW engine that takes it to a top speed of up to 230 km/h. It ranks among the safest vehicles in its category and exceeds the FIA safety regulations that govern this class of car. Innovations such as the FORS (Formula Rescue Seat) were developed by BMW Motorsport specifically for Formula BMW. Following Formula One, Formula BMW was the first single-seater series outside the US in which the HANS system was made mandatory.

Formula BMW drivers have the opportunity to take part in an Education and Coaching Programme that runs parallel with the racing season. The program includes driver coaching at the races by professional race drivers, attending a Formula One test, fitness courses, tuition in driving technique and strategy, as well as seminars on sponsoring and sport management.

Among the 20 team drivers in this season's Formula One, there are now four Formula BMW graduates: Nico Rosberg, Adrian Sutil, Sebastian Vettel and Timo Glock. The test and reserve drivers add three more to the tally, namely Christian Klien, Sebastien Buemi and Nicolas Hülkenberg.

In the words of BMW Motorsport Director Mario Theissen: "With our worldwide Formula BMW concept, we offer drivers and teams a platform which, in this format, is unprecedented in a junior series and which allows them to benefit from our Formula One involvement. Through Formula BMW the drivers are equipped with the tools they need to assert themselves successfully in the world of professional motor racing."

Note to editors:

Information and copyright free Formula BMW images for press purposes will be available at the BMW Motorsport Press Club, www.press.bmw-motorsport.com (no registration is required).

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